

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Council Work Session
Minutes
July 1, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

President McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 pm in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were Ms. Garrett, Mr. Shattuck, Mr. Taiani, Ms. Trice, Ms. Moore, Ms. Grannemann, Ms. Macklin, President McCarthy-Johnson. Amanda Ford, Interim Borough Manager and Mayor Thompson. (Mr. Lefebvre was absent.) A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance led by President McCarthy-Johnson, a moment of silence was observed to remember victims of violent crime.

PRESENTATION

- Michael McCaig, Jenny Capital Markets
 - Standard & Poors – Reports reflects a good credit rating for the Borough of Wilkinsburg.
 - Approval of Capital Bond at the next Council meeting on July 8, 2015.
 - Provided a financing report for the General Obligation Bonds.
 - Borrowing interest rate is 3 ½ %.
 - Closing on the bond is scheduled for August 11, 2015.

Question: President McCarthy-Johnson – For the purpose of explanation for the audience; should the Borough have a list of intended expending?

Mr. McCaig – A general list should be prepared and it does not have to be specific; if there should be changes from the initial list, that's okay as well. The spending must be "capital" in nature.

- Several questions follows from Council members regarding the financial use and spending of the bond.

Question: Vice-President Moore – What can we use this bond for?

Mr. McCaig – The use is dictated by IRS Tax Code. (Capital projects mostly).

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1) Marilyn Albert – 622 Hampton Avenue – Concern about an increase in property tax; I would like to express to Council that I do not want an increase in Property Taxes.

AGENDA ITEMS

- **Ms. Moore motion to table items: 1 through 6 until next week Council meeting scheduled for July 8, 2015.**

1. Approving Resolution No. 15-043 – Dissolution of the Redevelopment Authority of Wilkinsburg.
2. Approving Resolution No. 15-044 – Street Closure – Park Avenue convenience Store.
3. Approving Resolution No. 15-045 – Street Closure – St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church.
4. Approving Resolution No. 15-046 – Street Closure – 900 Block East End Block Party.
5. Approving Resolution No. 15-047 – Street Closure – Blessing of the Animals, Mifflin Avenue Methodist Church.
6. Approving Resolution No. 15-048 – Street Closure – Taylor Way, Entertainment Consortium.

Moved: Ms. Moore

Second: Ms. Grannemann

A vote in favor of the motion, 7 – 1.

7. **Approving Resolution No. 15-049 – Sewer Repair Project Bid for Soli Construction in the amount of \$22,900.00**

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second Ms. Grannemann

A vote in favor of the motion, 8 – 0. Motion carried.

8. **Adopting Ordinance No. 2935 Enhanced Tax Abatement**

Moved: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Ms. Garrett

A vote in favor of the motion, 8 – 0. Motion carried.

9. Discussion – Transient Retail Vendor Application.

- Applicant Cherelle LaShawn Jeffries – Submitted an application to sale Italian Ice in Wilkinsburg (parks, sidewalks, etc.). Under the Ordinance 2460 the application is required to be reviewed by the Police Department for approval. Application was returned by the Police Department not approved due to the fact the Borough has never issued a license under this ordinance.
- Council needs to review this application and determine whether or not if the Borough can approve these types of license request in the future.
- President McCarthy-Johnson – We will discuss this item next week so that council can review the language.

10. Council Committee Reports:

Administrative Committee – Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson - Met on June 16th 2015.

- Strategic Planning need updated for 2015.
- Website needs updated; and Borough Manager needs to prepare an RFP to seek out other website providers.
- City of Pittsburgh Refuse contract is being reviewed by the City and will contact the Borough of Wilkinsburg in the near future.
- Police Department contract renewal needs to be completed and prepared by Attorney Michael Palombo.
- Health insurance issue needs to be reviewed.
- SEIU has submitted their interest to renew the union contract.
- Social Media Policy prepared by the Labor Counsel and is seeking Council's comments.
- FaceTime and Skype calls needs to be amended for the call-in to Council meetings.

Budget and Finance Committee – Michael Lefebvre

- Ms. Moore comments that the Finance Committee met on June 12th 2015.
- Dave Egler, Finance Director discuss finance policies, hiring process and we have a new Assistant Finance Director Lloyd Fait who is doing well in adjusting to the departmental needs.

Capital Planning/Econ Development and Revitalization Committee – Patrick Shattuck – Met on June 24th 2015.

- Chart provided to Members of Council to review a wish list for Capital Planning improvement and development.
- Met with Allegheny County Economic Development – Robert Hurley – To discuss the Borough’s intent to moving forward with our Economic Development plans.

Civic Sector and Constituent/Business Outreach Committee – Pamela Macklin – No report; next meeting at 6:00 p.m. on July 10th 2015.

Community Relations/Special Events – Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson – Met on June 30th 2015.

- Family Festival sponsored by Mayor Thompson is scheduled for July 5th and is expected to have over 600-700 in attendance.
- Community Days canceled for August 29th 2015; due to close proximity of neighboring boroughs events.
- Healthcare Fair is scheduled for August 28th 2015.
- Commitment to the Community – Wilksburg School of Deaf – meets quarterly.
- Annual Block Party scheduled for September 19th 2015. Local communities to have a table set-up.
- Blood Drive scheduled for October 2015.
- Local Government for Banner Community scheduled for October 2015.
- Movie Night – Suggestion of Graham Field
- Light-Up Night scheduled for December 2015.

Hiring Committee – Eugenia Moore – Update on Borough Manager Hire

- Borough News - Applicant scheduled for an interview
- Non-Profit Talent Website – Applicants response good from this resource.

Personnel Committee – Paige Trice – No report; next meeting scheduled for July 15th at 6:30 p.m.

- Closed session.

Public Safety Committee – Kate Grannemann – Met on June 15th 2015.

- Several Public Safety issues discussed during the meeting.
- President McCarthy-Johnson mentioned the Zoning Board meeting minutes held on June 18th 2015.
 - Pamela Macklin introduces the new Code Enforcement Director, Eric Parrish.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Kate Luxemburg – 432 Rebecca Avenue – Complained of the following:
 - 1) Website – Problem Report form-link disappeared from the website.
 - 2) Salt Structure – Catalog for salt storage approx. \$8,000.
 - 3) Green Street Park – DCNR – Requesting information about Green Street Park.
- President McCarthy-Johnson – Informed Ms. Luxemburg that this subject is a legal issue and that the property belongs to the School District. The DCNR requirement is that the Borough needs to designate another facility for that park.
- Ms. Luxemburg and residents would like Green Street Park to remain a park.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Taiani – Comments on Green Street Park that DPW continues to cut the grass, etc. within the park area.
- Ms. Garrett – Inquired about a cleaning contract for Eastridge Library.

NEW BUSINESS

- Grace for Life Church – Needs to be submitted to Parks and Recreation only for approval.
- Forms needs to be revised so that the information is clear as to the type of event.
- Mr. Taiani led discussion regarding the possibility of leasing the South Avenue Municipal Parking Lot to Port Authority Transit (PAT) Authority.
- Ms. Moore announces the Mt. Calvary Church, Community of Hope is having a Veteran's Family and Friends Day providing lunch and prizes on July 18th 2015 at 2:00 p.m.
- Mr. Taiani discussion regarding lack of “mph” signage and crosswalks throughout the borough.
- Ms. Garrett comments on items for sign recommendations placed in the Capital Planning chart.
- Mayor Thompson announces Pastor Janet of Christian Church celebrates her 25th anniversary on July 12th 2015 at 8:00 a.m. serving food after services.
- McCarthy-Johnson mentions meeting with C. S. McKee regarding a 457 Plan for retirement plan voluntary contribution.
- ICMA Retirement Plan is the borough's current retirement vendor for borough employees.
- Deputy Superintendent – Mr. Petrella appointed as new superintendent on July 15th at the School Board meeting. This would be a good night for Council to serve Pizza Night.
- Pitt Make a Difference Day – Ideas needed from council to pass along to this group for a clean-up project.
- Letter from Penn DOT for the Borough to receive a monetary amount of a reimbursement.
- Cargill Salt agreement will be placed on the agenda for approval.
- Ms. Moore- Announcement for Summer Nights Jazz is Hosanna annual fundraiser.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, President McCarthy-Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:11 p.m.

Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson
President Council